

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /075 W

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R 230320Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6102

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0451

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, LA, US

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL SOCIAL CONTACTS WITH PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF LAOS AUTHORITIES

1. ALTHOUGH I HAVE ACCEPTED SEVERAL INVITATIONS TO PDRL
OFFICIAL SOCIAL EVENTS AND ENTERTAINED SOME WORKING-LEVEL
OFFICIALS, OUR FEBRUARY 20 WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY - BI-
CENTENNIAL YEAR RECEPTION OFFERED OUR FIRST OCCASION TO
TEST PDRL REACTION TO A MAJOR EMBASSY RECEPTION. IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL PRACTICE WE DELIVERED INVITATIONS
FOR LAO OFFICIALS TO FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTOCOL OFFICE
WHICH INDICATED SOME 29 OUT OF 53 WOULD BE ACCEPTED.

2. IN THE EVENT A SPECIAL CABINET MEETING TO HEAR
KAYSONE'S REPORT ON HIS TRIP TO HANOI AND "SELECT" A
DELEGATION TO LEAVE THE NEXT DAY FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH
CONGRESS OF THE USSR COMMUNIST PARTY, CONFLICTED WITH
OUR RECEPTION AND ONLY 8 OFFICIALS SHOWED UP. THERE WERE
HEADED BY MINISTER OF INFORMATION, PROPAGANDA, CULTURE
AND TOURISM, SISANA SISANE AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
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FOREIGN AFFAIRS KHAMPHAY BOUPHA AND INCLUDED SECRETARY

OF STATE FOR FINANCE BOUTSABONG SOUVANNAVONG, PRESIDENT
OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF
VIENTIANE PHAO PHIMPHACHANH, CHIEF OF PROTOCOL KHAMTHAN
RATTANAVONG, FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE KITHONG VONGSAY
(NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY),
CHEF DE CABINET SOUBANH SRITHIRATH AND THE AMBASSADOR-
DESIGNATE TO GREAT BRITAIN PLATTHANA CHOUNRAMANY.

3. COMMENT: CONSIDERING THE CORRECT BUT LESS THAN
ECSTATIC NATURE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THE
CONFLICT WITH THE SPECIAL CABINET MEETING, THIS WAS A
FAIR TURNOUT INDICATIVE OF THE PDRL'S EXPRESSED DESIRE
FOR CONTINUED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND WAS SO INTER-
PRETED BY MANY OF THE SOME 50 DIPLOMATIC CORPS MEMBERS AND
WIVES WHO COMMENTED TO ME.
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